

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2964

INFO CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT SEDU CH

SUBJECT: EDUCATION SYSTEM CHANGES MODIFYING CULTURAL REVOLUTION LEGACY

REF: HONG KONG 13844

1. IN THE FIRST OFFICIAL REVERSAL OF POLICIES GENERALLY LINKED TO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, PEKING HAS RESURRECTED THE CONTROVERSIAL COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM AS A "GOOD" DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION VALUES. DESCRIBING THE PLOT BY THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND THEIR LIAONING AGENT-MAO YUAN-HSIN-TO OVERTHROW APRIL 1973 STATE COUNCIL INSTRUCTIONS WHICH REESTABLISHED THE EXAM SYSTEM, LIAONING DAILY AND PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORTERS IN A NOVEMBER 30 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE HAVE CONDEMNED THE GANG'S THEN SUCCESSFUL ATTACK AGAINST THE POLICIES THAT SUMMER. AS EARLIER NOTED (REFTEL, THE LIAONING AGENT CONCOCTED A STROY BASED ON A "BLANK EXAM PAPER" WHICH THE GANG USED AS A CHALLENGE TO THE EXAM SYSTEM, ARGUING THAT USE OF EXAMINATIONS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION DISCRIMINATED AGAINST WORKERS AND

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PEASANTS.

2. DESCRIBING THE 1973 STATE COUNCIL POLICIES AS HAVING "IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE" FOR TRAINING STUDENTS WHO ARE BOTH "RED AND EXPERT", THE REGIME HAS AGAIN ACCEPTED THE NECESSITY OF TILTING TOWARD EXPERTIZE. THE ISSUE OF EDUCATION REFORM, REFOUGHT AS RECENTLY AS LASY YEAR AND A STARTING POINT FOR THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING, IS THE FIRST SIGN OF CHANGES IN THE EDUCATION FIELD UNDER THE HUA REGIME. IT IS ONE OF SEVERAL HINTS, HOWEVER, THAT THE LEADERSHIP IS TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT A NUMBER OF HITERHERTO SACROSANCT "ACHIEVEMENTS" OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. OTHER CHANGES IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM MAY BE IN THE OFFERING AS THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO PUBLICITY GIVEN TO EDUCATION RECENT WEEKS AS WELL AS NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNIVERSITY SESSION OPENING WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEGUN WEEKS AGO. IN THE CAPITAL CRITICISM SESSIONS INVOLVING "GANG OF FOUR" SUPPORTERS IN PEKING AND TSINGHUA UNIVERSITIES HAVE CONTINUED, WHICH CERTAINLY WILL MEAN AT LEAST CHANGING THE LEADERSHIP IN THOSE INSTITUTIONS. CROSS

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